

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

COSIMO DONNO, et al.

Application No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: CONNECTION OF A BONE  
SCREW TO A BONE PLATE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
May 10, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following amended, clean version of the Abstract (a marked-up version of the changes to the Abstract is attached to this Amendment):

CONNECTION OF A BONE SCREW TO A BONE PLATE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

With the invention the connection of a bone screw (12) to a bone plate (7) is shown. The head (13) of the bone screw (12) lies with a ring-shaped outer surface (10) in contact on a counter-surface (25) and can be fixed with a securing screw (15) which can be screwed in in the direction towards the counter-surface (25). In this the height (16) of the bone plate (7) is chosen such that it is less than or equal to the shaft diameter (19) of the bone screw

(12), whereas the screw head (13) dips in into a cut-out (20) of the securing screw (15) and the upper side of the securing screw (15) terminates with the upper side of the bone plate (7).

FIG. 2a

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following amended, clean versions of the indicated claims (a marked-up version of the changes to the claims is attached to this Amendment):

3. (amended) Connection in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the head (13) of the bone screw is designed as a spherical pan, the outer surface (22) and the inner surface (23) of which have a same center (24); and in that the securing screw dips in into the pan with a suitable core (26).

7. (amended) Connection in accordance with claim 1, comprising a bone plate (7) which is formed as a yoke which can be used as an anchoring body (4, 14) for a support construction at a vertebra (1, 2).

8. (amended) Connection in accordance with claim 1, comprising a bone plate (7) which can be used as a bridge (21) between two vertebrae (1, 2).

10. (amended) Connection in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the shaft diameter (19) of the bone screw (12) amounts to between 2 and 10 mm.

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REMARKS:

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Amendment is made to delete a minor informality in the Abstract and to eliminate all multiple dependencies from the claims, thereby avoiding the need to pay the multiple dependent surcharge.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CHANGES TO THE ABSTRACT**

[Abstract of disclosure] ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

With the invention the connection of a bone screw (12) to a bone plate (7) is shown. The head (13) of the bone screw (12) lies with a ring-shaped outer surface (10) in contact on a counter-surface (25) and can be fixed with a securing screw (15) which can be screwed in in the direction towards the counter-surface (25). In this the height (16) of the bone plate (7) is chosen such that it is less than or equal to the shaft diameter (19) of the bone screw (12), whereas the screw head (13) dips in into a cut-out (20) of the securing screw (15) and the upper side of the securing screw (15) terminates with the upper side of the bone plate (7).

[(Fig 6)]

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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS**

3. (amended) Connection in accordance with claim 1 [or claim 2], characterized in that the head (13) of the bone screw is designed as a spherical pan, the outer surface (22) and the inner surface (23) of which have a same center (24); and in that the securing screw dips in into the pan with a suitable core (26).

7. (amended) Connection in accordance with [any one of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1, comprising a bone plate (7) which is formed as a yoke which can be used as an anchoring body (4, 14) for a support construction at a vertebra (1, 2).

8. (amended) Connection in accordance with [any one of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1, comprising a bone plate (7) which can be used as a bridge (21) between two vertebrae (1, 2).

10. (amended) Connection in accordance with [any one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1, characterized in that the shaft diameter (19) of the bone screw (12) amounts to between 2 and 10 mm.

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